

**SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION, IN VITRO ANTIMICROBIAL AND
ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITIES OF CHALCONE DERIVATIVES OF
4-HYDROXYACETOPHENONE**

BY

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(SCP11/12/R/0147)

A THESIS SUBMITTED

TO

**THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, FACULTY OF SCIENCE,
OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY,
ILE-IFE, OSUN STATE, NIGERIA.**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE (M. Sc) DEGREE IN
CHEMISTRY**

MAY, 2014.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research was carried out by Kelani, Monsuru Temitope in the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, under the supervision of Professor C. A. Obafemi.

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my late father, AlhajiKelaniAkanbi.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AcOH:	Acetic acid
EtOH:	Ethanol
D ₂ O:	Deuterium oxide/heavy water
DMSO:	Dimethyl sulphoxide
STD:	Standard
λ_{max} :	Maximum wavelength
OD:	Optical density
NCIB:	National Collection of Industrial Bacteria
LIO:	Locally Induced Organism
STREP:	Streptomycin
AMP:	Ampicillin

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My sincere gratitude goes to the Almighty God, for helping me to gain the momenta of strength, guidance, knowledge and understanding throughout the course of this research.

My profound appreciation goes to my supervisor, Professor Obafemi Craig, for his moral and financial support, encouragement and guidance. Without you sir, the instrumentation analyses within and outside the country would have been impossible. You have been a teacher; within and outside the classroom and the laboratory, you have indeed instilled in me the principle of chemistry; you have also been a father within and outside the circle of chemistry. Thank you sir.

My appreciation also goes to Professor A. O. Ogunfowokan (Head of Chemistry Department) for his love and encouragement throughout the course of this research.

To my mum, Adetatyo, words would not be enough to thank you, and to my siblings, Bamidele, Abdullahi, Murphy, Alaba, Kemi, and Dupe, I sincerely appreciate your love, moral support and financial assistance rendered through the course of my study. Also to my darling Tawa for being there, you are indeed one in a million.

My sincere appreciation goes to Dr T. O. Olomola who assisted me in running the NMR and IR analyses of some of my compounds. To my family in the laboratory, MrFadare, who has always been there for me in the laboratory right from the moment I started the research, you are a wonderful teacher. I will not forget to appreciate MrTayoAbioye and MrTaiwoFadare (Department of Microbiology, OAU), who made the antimicrobial activity of the work successful, I say a very big thank you. MrTaiwo, MrMojeed, Tunji, Racheal, Bode, Tola and Jide, you made working in the lab interesting and fun.

ABSTRACT

This study synthesized some phenolic chalcone-ninhydrin adducts via microwave-irradiation of phenolic chalcones with ninhydrin. This was with a view to improving the chemotherapeutic property of chalcones.

The chalcones were prepared by reacting 4-hydroxyacetophenone with an equivalent mole of seven substituted benzaldehyde to afford the corresponding chalcones (**1a**, **2a**, **3a**, **4a**, **5a**, **6a** and **7a**). The resulting phenolic-chalcones were reacted with ninhydrin by pulse microwave-irradiation of the reactants in glacial acetic acid for 8 min to give the following compounds **1b**, **2b**, **3b**, and **4b**, except the reaction of **7a** with ninhydrin which was achieved by refluxing in glacial acetic acid for 6 hours to yield ninhydrin adduct of the chalcone **7b**. The compounds were screened for antioxidant activities which included 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl hydrate (DPPH) and (ferric reducing antioxidant power) FRAP assays. They were also screened *in-vitro* against nine strains of Gram-positive and five Gram-negative bacteria, to determine their zones of inhibition, minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) and minimum bactericidal concentrations (MBC).

The structures of some of the synthesized compounds were investigated and confirmed using nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) experiments (^1H , ^{13}C , and distortionless enhancement by polarization transfer (DEPT)). Some of the compounds were also subjected to infra-red spectroscopic analysis and mass spectrometry to corroborate the information obtained from the NMR experiments. The spectroscopic analysis showed that the expected structures of the chalcones were obtained and that the ninhydrin adducts were either di- or tri-substituted adducts. Compound **7a** demonstrated the best DPPH radical scavenging ability with an IC_{50} value

of 0.0240 mg/ml which was lower than the standard (ascorbic acid, 0.0250 mg/ml). In the FRAP assay, however, compound **4b** demonstrated the best activity with an ascorbic acid equivalent of (AAE) of 0.470 mg. Therefore, compounds **7a** and **7b** exhibited a comparable radical scavenging ability to the ascorbic acid used as standard drug than the other compounds against the DPPH, while compound **4b** exhibited an excellent ferric reducing antioxidant ability using the FRAP assays. All the bacterial strains were sensitive to compound **5a** except *Pseudomonasaeruginosa*, which was also not susceptible to the standard drugs, streptomycin and ampicillin. Compound **5a** exhibited the best activity against the Gram-negative bacteria and also had the lowest MIC values than ampicillin.

The study concluded that compounds **4a**, **7a** and **7b** could serve as good antioxidant agents and compound **5a** exhibited an excellent antimicrobial property.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Chalcones are also known as benzalacetophenone or benzylidene acetophenone. In these compounds, two aromatic rings are linked by an aliphatic three carbon chain. Structurally, they are a group of compounds bearing 1,3-diaryl-2-propen-1-one skeletal framework, which consists of open-chain flavonoids in which the two aromatic rings are joined together by three carbons in an α,β -unsaturated system. Chemically, they can be easily cyclized by a Michael addition at the β position of the carbonyl to form a flavanone. The presence of double bond results in *cis* and *trans* isomers of chalcones in nature, of which the *trans* form is thermodynamically stable. Chalcones are one of the most structurally diverse groups of flavonoids existing as dimers, oligomers, Diels-Alder adducts, and conjugates of various kinds. Additionally, the attachment of varieties of hydroxyl, methoxy, and alkenyl functionalities to the framework of chalcone accounts for its structural diversity as well (Andersen *et al.*, 2006). Chalcones derivatives are an important class of compounds possessing diverse biological properties including antiplasmodial (Frolich *et al.*, 2005), antibacterial (Parekh *et al.*, 2005), trypanocidal and leishmanicidal properties (Lunardi *et al.*, 2003), antitumour (Tatematsu, Min *et al.*, 1996), anti-inflammatory (Williams *et al.*, 1995), antiviral activities (Mahmood *et al.*, 1997). Extensive work on synthesis of chalcones has been done by various methods. They are precursors of flavones in the biosynthesis of flavonoids.

1.1.2 BIOSYNTHESIS OF CHALCONES

The most common sequence uses three malonyl CoA acylations followed by cyclization to a new aromatic ring. The simplest type is exemplified by resveratrol, the compound in red wine that helps to prevent heart disease (fig. 1.0, Schroder, 1999).

A different cyclization leads to the flavones and anthocyanidins. Reaction of the stable enol from a

1,3-diketone with the thiol ester as electrophile results in acylation at carbon in the manner of the Claisen ester condensation with loss of CoASH and the formation of a trihydroxybenzene ring. The biosynthesis of 2',4',6',4-tetrahydroxychalcone, also known as chalconaringenin will be the focus here. This compound is formed by the condensation of three molecules of malonyl coenzyme A (malonyl coA) with one mole of p-coumaroyl-CoA catalyzed by chalcone synthase (Schroder, 1999) which gives a tetraketide precursor. Subsequent cyclization of this tetraketide precursor yields the chalcone. Natural chalcones represent the convergence of two biosynthetic pathways, the acetate (leading to the ring A) and the shikimate (leading to ring B), respectively. Studies indicate that the extent of B-ring hydroxyl substitution in flavonoids is controlled at the C₁₅ level rather than incorporation of specific cinnamoyl-CoA derivatives (Forkmann and Heller, 1999). The formation of B ring results from p-coumaroyl-CoA which is achieved through hydroxylase and methyl transferase enzymes and the existence of a specific 3-hydroxylase for chalcones is from the general flavonoids 3'-hydroxylase (Wimmer *et al.*, 1998) which are cytochrome P450-dependent monooxygenases. The number of hydroxyl groups in the ring A is also controlled, for example, in isoliquiritigenin (2',4',4'-trihydroxychalcone) found in *leguminosae* is most likely to be formed via a reduction step at the polyketide level, catalyzed by a NADPH-dependent monomeric enzyme known as chalcone ketide or polyketide reductase (Schroder, 1999).

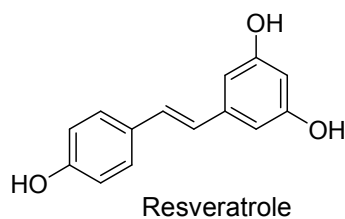
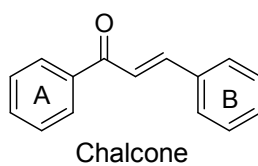


Fig. 1.0 The structure of a typical chalcone and resveratrol

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